

# Arizona Personalized Learning Network

Student Centered Shifts



# National Context

- KnowledgeWorks
  - The shift to student-centered learning
  - Personalized, Competency-Based Learning (PCBL)

## How do student-centered learning and personalized, competency-based learning work together?

We believe that personalized, competency-based learning is the way to drive student-centered learning forward.

Through personalized, competency-based learning, learners have voice and ownership over how, what, when and where they learn – and connections to community and real-world experiences are a priority. Students learn actively using different pathways and varied pacing that does not result in tracking or other forms of ability grouping. The core elements of personalized, competency-based education – engaging educational experiences, focus on learners’ needs, assets and voice, connections to real-world experiences, emphasis on readiness and de-tracking – have a substantial body of research and evidence supporting their efficacy in closing opportunity gaps and producing more equitable outcomes.

## What is personalized, competency-based learning?

In a personalized, competency-based learning environment:

1. Students daily make important decisions about their learning experiences, how they will create and apply knowledge and how they will **demonstrate their learning**
2. Assessment is a meaningful, positive and empowering learning experience for students that yields **timely, relevant and actionable evidence**
3. Students receive **timely, differentiated support** based on their individual learning needs
4. Students **progress based on evidence of mastery** or competency, not seat time
5. Students learn actively using **different pathways and varied pacing**
6. **Strategies to ensure equity** are embedded in the culture, structure and pedagogy of schools and education systems
7. Rigorous, common **expectations for learning** are explicit, transparent, measurable and transferable



# State Context

- Arizona Personalized Learning Network
  - Santa Cruz Valley USD #35, Amphitheatre, Yuma Union HSD, Mesa Public Schools
  - 2019-2020 Launching Year, 5 year commitment
  - Student-centered learning, personalized learning, PCBL aspirations
  - Partnerships: Center for the Future of Az (CFA)
  - Portrait of a Graduate work
  - Scale and sustain as the AZPLN



# Educational Shifts

- Making the Shifts- Agency by design
  - Student/Learner
  - Teacher/Facilitator
  - Grading/Feedback
  - Adult Centered Culture/ Learner Centered Culture
  - “Owners/holders” of knowledge/Transparency

Achieve



# Elements of Deeper & Personalized Learning

1. Students are **empowered daily to make important decisions** about their learning experiences, how they will create and apply knowledge, and how they will demonstrate their learning.
2. **Assessment is a meaningful, positive, and empowering learning experience** for students that yields timely, relevant, and actionable evidence.
3. Students receive timely, **differentiated support** based on their individual learning needs.
4. Students **progress based on evidence of mastery**, not seat time.
5. Students **learn actively** using different pathways and varied pacing.
6. **Rigorous, common expectations for learning** (knowledge, skills, and dispositions) are explicit, transparent, measurable, and transferable.



# Deeper & Personalized Learning Experiences

## Components:

- Learner agency
- Relevant (outside school) connections
- Creative and complex thinking
- Authentic collaboration
- Advance based on mastery, leading to competency

## Practices:

- Inquiry
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Project based learning
- Design thinking
- Small group learning
- Inclusive environments
- Learner ownership of data, goal setting, metacognition



## Get Involved



### Shape the Portrait of a Leader

The 2023-24 Lead for Learners Steering Committee identified a critical need to create a defined set of skills educators need to successfully and sustainably lead systems change. Through design sessions facilitated by KnowledgeWorks, the Portrait of Leader project emerged as a priority action step.

Similar to how a learning community's shared vision for learners is captured in a Portrait of Learner, the Portrait of a Leader will serve as a collective vision for the knowledge, skills and dispositions educators need to lead education systems change through personalized, competency-based learning.

Through surveys, focus groups and design workshops, educators across the country will work together to create a foundation for leadership development resources and professional learning pathways to support current and emerging leaders at all levels of the education system.



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